

5 (Amended). A method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of compressed bitstreams containing local time base information encoded therein are multiplexed, for multiplexing further comprising [the steps of]:

synchronizing the local time base of the individual compressed bitstream to a common time base by encoding and inserting the time base offset in the multiplexed bitstream;

examining each of the compressed bitstream for the next compressed instance to be placed into the multiplexed bitstream until all the compressed bitstreams have arrived at the modulo time base;

Q3 inserting a common modulo time base into the multiplex bitstream and skipping the modulo time base of the compressed bitstreams; and

repeating the [last two steps] examining each of the compressed bitstream for the next compressed instance to be placed into the multiplexed bitstream until all the compressed bitstreams have arrived at the modulo time base, and inserting a common modulo time base into the multiplex bitstream and skipping the modulo time base of the compressed bitstreams until all compressed bit-streams are exhausted.

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-8 are allowable over the art of record.

However, the claims stand rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration

under 35 U.S.C. §251 as failing to refer to all pending reissue applications of U.S. Patent 6,075,576, and also, on the ground that the declaration that was submitted was not signed. By the current amendment, Applicants submit a supplemental declaration that refers to all pending reissue applications of U.S. Patent 6,075,576.

Further, Applicants submit that the filed declaration was signed. Specifically, Applicants note that the present application was filed in unexecuted form on December 15, 2000, and that the executed Reissue Declaration and Power of Attorney was submitted on April 11, 2001. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants enclose a copy of the executed Reissue Declaration, along with a copy of the date-stamped filing receipt evidencing the submission of the executed Reissue Declaration on April 11, 2001.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. §251 rejection of the reissue declaration no longer exists. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to the disclosure on the ground that the specification does not make reference to all related reissue applications. By the current amendment, Applicants amend the specification to indicate all reissue applications (whether regular or divisional) that are related to U.S. Patent 6,075,576.

As noted above, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-8 are allowable over the art of record. While reviewing the claims, Applicants noted several minor grammatical errors in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants herewith revise claims 1-3 and 5 to correct the minor

errors in the claims. Specifically, claims 1-3 are amended to change several instances of "the said" to ---the---. Claim 1 is further amended to change the term "have" to ---has---, and to delete the term "the" from the preamble of claim 1.

In addition, the preambles of claims 1-3 and 5 are amended to delete the phrase "the steps of". As a result of this revision, Applicants have further amended claims 2 and 5 to replace the recitation "the last two steps" with the specific actions that are performed.

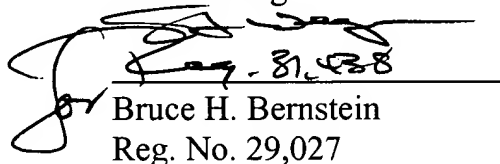
Lastly, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 7 and 8.

Applicants submit that the scope of the amended claims have not changed, and thus, they are allowable over the art of record. In addition, Applicants submit that the current amendment and the submission of a supplemental declaration addresses the procedural concerns of the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass this application to issue.

Should there be any question, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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Enclosures:

Executed Reissue Declaration (copy)
Date-stamped filing receipt (copy)